

PINKS etc.

October 1, 1968

Mr. George W. Dutcher, P.E., Director
Department of Public Works
New Castle County, Delaware 19720

Dear Mr. Dutcher:

As discussed at our meeting on September 20, the State Board of Health will exercise its approval authority for solid waste disposal site location - in accordance with Title 16, Chapter 17, Section 1702 of the Delaware Code.

I am checking on the possibility of utilizing a completed sanitary landfill for agricultural purposes. This will take a few weeks, since I am posing this question to the Public Health Service as well as checking through the materials I have on hand. I have found two bits of information so far: (1) "There are a number of landfills both in this country and in Europe that are used for agriculture (crop growing). Much depends on the root depth needed for a particular crop! This quote was made by Mr. Ralph J. Black, of the U. S. Public Health Service - at the 1963 National Conference on Solid Waste Research. (2) "The degree of stability and depth of final cover for a completed landfill used for agricultural purposes depend largely on the kind of agricultural use. Settlement is relatively unimportant if a stockyard is to be built; two feet or less of compacted cover is adequate. If crops are to be grown on the completed fill, settlement is important if it affects irrigation channel grades; and final soil cover must be sufficiently deep and of suitable material for growing crops. Surface drainage channels should be paved or stabilized to prevent erosion and fill leaching. The possibility of ground water pollution from leaching by irrigation water must be evaluated before a decision is made to use a fill site for growing irrigated crops." This quote was taken from the American Public Works Association publication, "Municipal Refuse Disposal", published by the Public Administration Service, 1966, page 136. My own observation on this question is that even if it is being done, the relationships between landfill grown crops and diseases has not been adequately researched. Extreme caution should be exercised if it is decided to allow landfill land to be used for this purpose in Delaware.

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In response to your other question, I have seen nothing to indicate that refuse cells cannot be built up, one on top of the other.

The State Board of Health sanitary landfill standards and the information required by this office are included with this letter.

I am enclosing a xerox copy of an article on Landfill Contracts which may be of some use to you. (Of course, our specific requirements would have to be written into the Contract.) The article was taken from the July, 1968, issue of the Solid Wastes Management/Refuse Removal Journal.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert R. Westerman
Sanitary Engineer
Solid Waste Division

RRW/cw
Enclosures

cc: Dr. L. Liva

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